

Long Beach Earth Day Summit 2021

Event Report

Event held on April 22, 2021
from 1-4:30pm via Zoom

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the partners that made the Earth Day Summit possible. Without the expert input and enthusiasm of each topic's facilitators, we would not have been able to host such in-depth and productive conversations with all our community participants. Listed below are all the City staff and community partners who gave their time and energy to guide the conversations and collect community feedback in our breakout sessions. They also helped us to spread the word to the Long Beach community to ensure we invited as many voices to the table as possible.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in the Earth Day Summit. We appreciate your time and thoughtful discussion of sustainability issues in Long Beach. We will incorporate your ideas into the Sustainability Strategic Plan whenever possible and look forward to continuing to collaborate with you on future initiatives to make our city more sustainable and resilient.

Dean Wang, Water Resources Manager, and Morgan Venter, Public Affairs Specialist, Long Beach Water Department

Erin Rowland, Waste Diversion Officer, and Marie Anne Antiga, Recycling Specialist, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau

Meredith Reynolds, Park Planning and Partnerships Manager, and Alma Castro, Partnership Officer, LB Parks, Recreation and Marine

Shreya Sharan, Equity Policy & Programs Specialist, Office of Equity; and Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Planner IV & Budget Specialist, Long Beach Planning Bureau

Raelene Child, Youth Program Director, and Jill Unze, Volunteer, Leadership Long Beach

Dr. Jennifer Lentz, Program Manager, and Chris Chavez, Deputy Policy Director, Coalition for Clean Air

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Introduction

This report summarizes the community input received at the 2021 Earth Day Summit hosted by the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability on Earth Day, April 22, 2021 from 1pm to 4:30pm via Zoom. During the event, members of the public joined breakout rooms to discuss the major topics in sustainability today and to give input on what actions are most needed to make Long Beach a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient city. Discussions were facilitated by subject-matter experts including City staff and representatives from local organizations. Facilitators for each session are listed in each session report below.

Input from this event will be used to support the development of the new Sustainability Strategic Plan for the City of Long Beach which will replace the Sustainable City Action Plan (SCAP). The SCAP was adopted by City Council in 2010 and guided the City of Long Beach's initiatives around environmental sustainability for 10 years. This plan was originally developed by staff to identify the most pressing sustainability issues of the time, set ambitious goals for new and existing programs and policies, and help track progress towards sustainability achievements.

The new Sustainability Strategic Plan will set priorities and measurable goals for the City's sustainability initiatives for the next 5 years and support the implementation of other City initiatives such as the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the Framework for Reconciliation.

Additional opportunities for public input will include an online survey and an additional public event to receive feedback on the draft plan. Information on these opportunities can be found on the [Sustainability Strategic Plan website](#) or through [registering for our newsletter](#).

For any questions about this report or the Sustainability Strategic Plan, please email Sustainability@longbeach.gov.

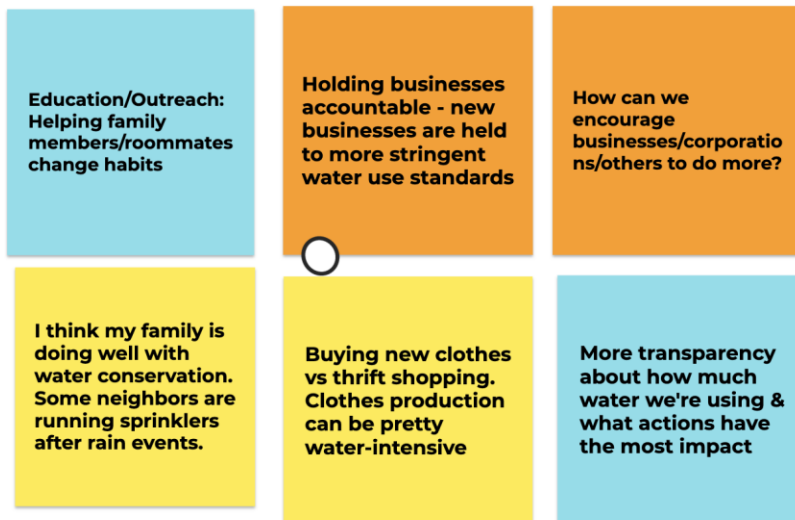
Session: Water

Facilitators:

Dean Wang, Water Resources Manager, Long Beach Water Department

Morgan Venter, Public Affairs Specialist, Long Beach Water Department

What are barriers for you to reduce your water use?



Q1: What are barriers for you to reduce your water use?

★ Family

- Need more education for family members/children/roommates to help them reduce water use and change habits

★ Businesses/Corporations

- Hold businesses accountable
- Can be disheartening/discouraging to residents who are significantly reducing water usage when they see businesses with sprinklers over big swathes of lawns
- Awareness of what businesses recycle/reuse water (car washes/golf courses) to avoid common misconceptions

★ Neighbors

- Running sprinklers even after rain

★ General Comments

- Buying new clothes vs thrift shopping as clothes can be water-intensive
- Need more transparency about water usage and actions that have the most impact

What resources would help you overcome these barriers?



Q2: What resources would help you overcome these barriers?

★ Housing

- List of efficient/eco-friendly appliances and fixtures to bring to the condominium board
- Advocacy toolkits for renters who want to become more green
- Residential water audits to help residents understand water usage
- Awareness of incentives available for residents

★ Business/Commercial

- Advocacy toolkits for building owners who want to make their buildings greener
- Awareness of programs for corporate/commercial equivalent of the Lawn to Garden Program to help businesses make the switch
- Awareness of incentives available for businesses
- Smart shopping guides to patron water-friendly businesses

★ Native Plants

- Not just drought-tolerant plants but native plants to help sustain the Long Beach ecosystem
- Awareness and understanding that native plants can be just as attractive as other drought-tolerant plants

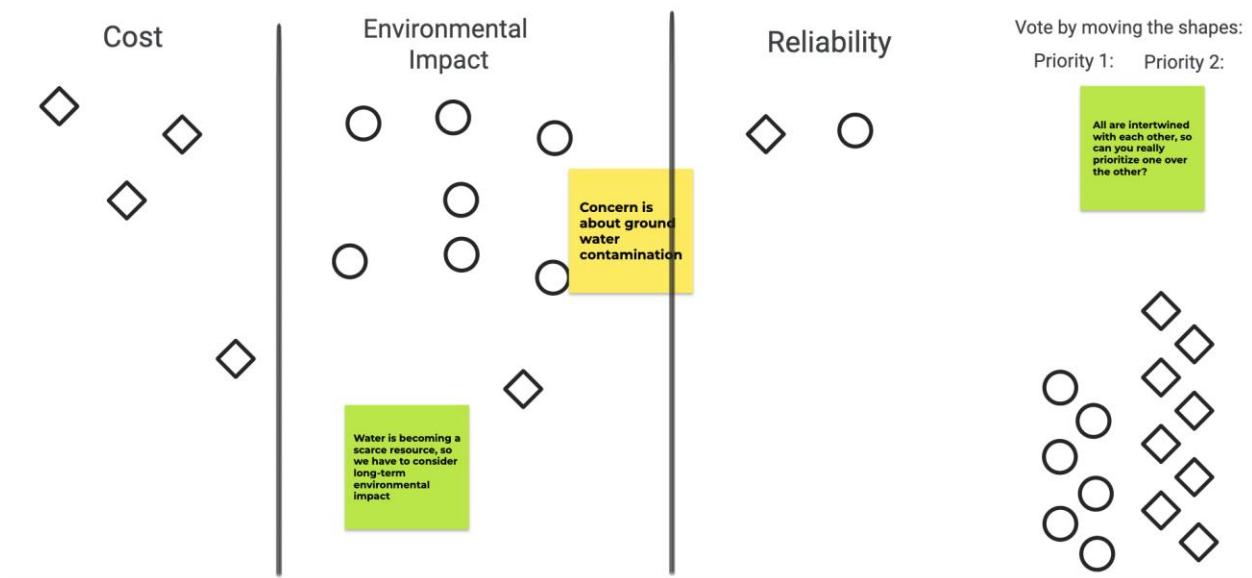
How can we make water conservation resources more equitable?



Q3: How can we make water conservation resources more equitable?

- ★ No privatization of water
 - Desalination plants shouldn't be owned by private companies
 - Will become a social justice issue
- ★ Programs to neighborhoods that need it most
 - While maintaining privacy
 - Potentially get funding from Measure US that just passed
 - Door hangers/flyers to provide awareness
 - Provide equitable language access with multi-lingual promotional materials, etc.
 - "Boots on the ground" type of outreach with aerators, etc.
- ★ Native Plants
 - Prioritizing California native plants over drought-tolerant plants to support local ecosystems
 - Expansion of DIME and DIG programs

What factors are most important to you when determining our future water sources?



Q4: What factors are most important to you when determining our future water sources?

★ Environmental Impact

- The cost of environmental impact is higher than the monetary cost
- United States may not feel this as much as less privileged countries do
- This must be a priority
- Groundwater contamination is a big concern
- Water becoming a scarce resource

★ All of the above

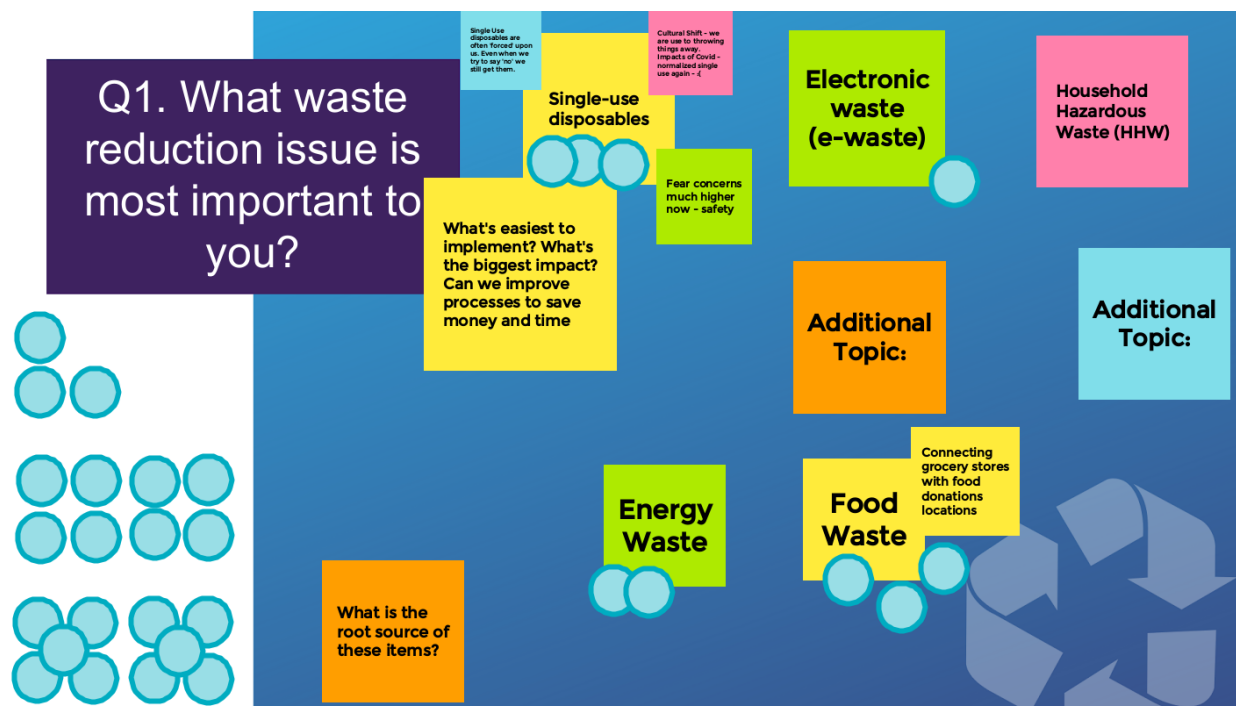
- All of the factors are inextricably intertwined with one another
- The idea that they're separate is not practical and people need to look at it differently

Session: Waste Reduction

Facilitators:

Erin Rowland, Waste Diversion Officer, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau

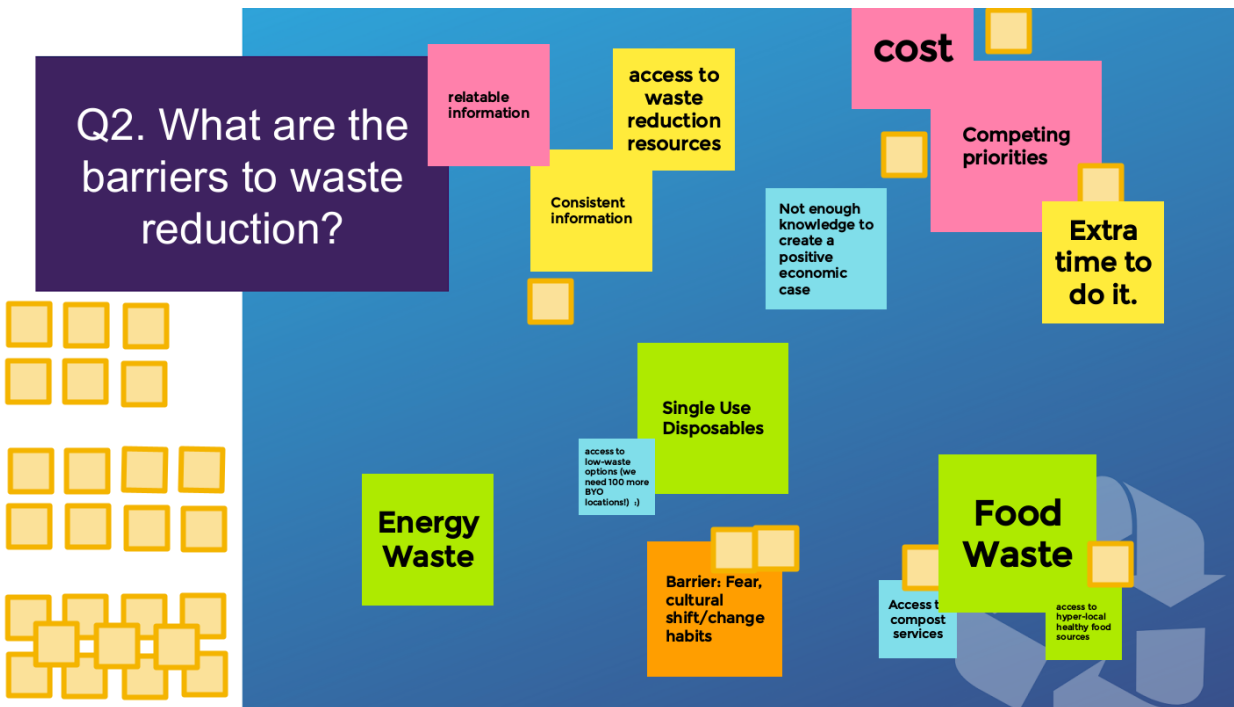
Marie Anne Antiga, Recycling Specialist, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau



Q1: What waste reduction issue is most important to you?

- ★ Single-use disposables
 - Element of fear added to the issue since COVID - need for education and to make consumers feel safe using reusable items again
 - Need for cultural shift, we are too used to using things once and throwing them away, why are these items free?
 - Likely to be forced on people whether wanted or not
- ★ Food Waste
 - Food donation and connecting edible food to local organizations
 - Availability and upscaling of local composting programs would be beneficial
 - Preventing food waste from occurring in the first place, upstream solutions

- ★ E-waste and hazardous waste
 - Toxicity and health impacts, including impacts to communities abroad
 - Bridging the digital divide, reusing e-waste items to serve the community
 - More room in this area to provide support to the community compared with single-use issues
- ★ Energy waste
 - Renters in buildings with little insulation use more energy for heating and cooling, this is wasteful
 - Renters also don't always have access to adequate recycling
- ★ General comments:
 - Focus efforts where potential impact is largest and easiest to achieve
 - Trickle information to people rather than providing too much at once - can be more effective
- ★ Questions from participants
 - What waste reduction issue could we have the biggest impact addressing?
 - Facilitator answer: That will depend a lot on personal priorities and experience. It also depends on what we mean by impact, for example single-use items tend to be light weight while garbage is usually measured in tonnage or pounds. E-waste tends to be heavier and is also toxic. There are also two issues related to e-waste, recycling the materials, but also reusing the products and using them to help bridge the digital divide.



Q2: What are the barriers to waste reduction?

★ Knowledge/education

- Need for consistent information - rules are different from city to city so it is important to communicate clearly and consistently
- Information should be relatable, eco-issues can seem elitist - example from participant that reusables could seem like they're just for rich people, but you can start by reusing what you already have at home - making people feel understood is an issue of equity for all classes
- People don't understand the full system so good ideas can end up causing more problems upstream or downstream - solutions must be designed holistically and can have a positive economic outcome.

★ Time and cost

- Many waste reduction actions require investment of time and money - people have many time commitments with jobs and family, and switching to reusables can require upfront costs
- People need to be passionate about it to make the investment of time and money, but not everyone is passionate about waste

- ★ Fear and cultural shift
 - Fear has become a major barrier to reusables since COVID (more discussion in previous question)
 - Need to change habits and culture around disposables
- ★ Food Waste
 - Need for more access to compost services
 - Access to local healthy food sources



Q3: What resources can help overcome these barriers?

★ Partnerships

- Collaboration with Human-I-T for e-waste reduction
- Collaborate with local urban farmers for composting
- Education/Workshops/Collaborations

★ Rules/regulations

- Holding restaurants and businesses accountable to a single-use plastic ban
- Stricter requirements for recycling availability in multi-family residential buildings
- Pass ordinances with stricter business requirements to lessen the burden of responsibility on the individual
- Financial savings for residents who reduce waste or sort properly (discount on services)
 - Facilitator commented on availability of smaller bins, and regulations that would prevent discounts

★ Education

- Educate through social media about things households could do to be more sustainable
- Setting up or encouraging more small scale city compost programs
- Long Beach Recycles EcoGuide
- Communicate through social media about companies that work on sustainability so people can refer them to their places of work to make where they work more sustainable.

Session: Open Space

Facilitators:

Meredith Reynolds, Park Planning and Partnerships Manager, LB Parks, Recreation and Marine
Alma Castro, Partnership Officer, LB Parks, Recreation and Marine



Q1: We now invite you to think about your favorite park. What makes it your favorite?

- ★ Bixby Park
 - Grew up with the playground
 - The Farmers Market, walking distance
 - The views, close to water and historic
- ★ Drake Park - Playground, colorful butterfly themed
- ★ Dominguez Gap
 - Wide open spaces, trails, access to the LA River, wonderful birds, turtles, flowers, plants. Nice water feature
- ★ El Dorado
 - Natural habitat and birds
 - Great for running, walking, biking and having parties

- ★ Los Cerritos Park
 - Topography, feels like an amphitheater during Municipal Band concerts
 - Only zipline for kids in LB
- ★ Wardlow Park - Gathering space, great for kids
- ★ Willow Springs - Nature, calm, self-reflection and great views
- ★ Paynes Prairie Park in Gainesville, Florida - natural habitat with lots of wildlife



Q2: What Roles do parks play in your life?

- ★ Better for kids than sitting in front of a TV
- ★ Break from heat
- ★ Calming effect
- ★ Connection with nature
- ★ Essential for child development
- ★ Exercise, fresh air, unwind, relax, experience nature
- ★ First jobs for many local youth
- ★ Fitness and mental health
- ★ Fresh air
- ★ Gathering space
- ★ Introductions to cultural programs
- ★ Music Events, concerts in the park are great for community building
- ★ Parks allow pollinators to thrive
- ★ Places of reflection
- ★ Place to rejuvenate
- ★ Relaxation
- ★ Trees and parks help clean the air, reduce GHG emissions, clean stormwater
- ★ Safe space
- ★ Serenity, fitness and beautiful views
- ★ Wide open spaces



Q3: Is there anything that prevents you from visiting a local park?

- ★ Bus connections to parks
- ★ Cleanliness and safety
- ★ Distance from my house to desired amenities
- ★ Having desired programming
- ★ Lack of awareness of what parks exist
- ★ Lack of food/beverage or other visitor serving amenities
- ★ Meetings, other obligations
- ★ Small park size
- ★ Sidewalks for pedestrian connections
- ★ Unsafe or non-existent bike paths to parks
- ★ Willow Springs is up a hill and I don't drive
- ★ Would visit El Dorado more often if it was closer

PARK EQUITY

What other metrics should we consider?

**tree
health**

More aggressive effort to acquire parks by city council

**Mobility
to parks**

youth engagement opportunities

trail connections

Better amenities at some local parks

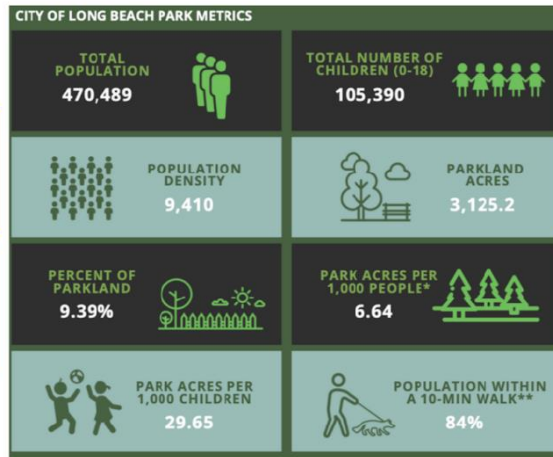
**safety
of
parks**

**Program
quality**

biodiversity

maintenance and preventative maintenance

Better utilize access and open space along the LA River



PRESENTER SLIDE

Q4: Park Equity - What other metrics should we consider?

- ★ Better amenities at some local parks
- ★ Better utilize access and open space along the LA River
- ★ Biodiversity
- ★ Maintenance and preventative maintenance
- ★ More aggressive effort to acquire parks by city council
- ★ Mobility to parks
- ★ Program quality
- ★ Safety of parks
- ★ Tree health
- ★ Trail connections
- ★ Youth engagement opportunities

Future partnerships, what should we be looking for?



Q5: Future partnerships, what should we be looking for?

- ★ Art in parks
- ★ Community gardens/urban agriculture, which also helps to meet Sustainability Plan goals
- ★ Cultural programs
- ★ Food waste and nutrition education
- ★ Library and reading programs in parks
- ★ Organizations that promote habitats
- ★ Parks and preventative health programs
- ★ Youth Employment in stewardships activities for local neighborhood youth

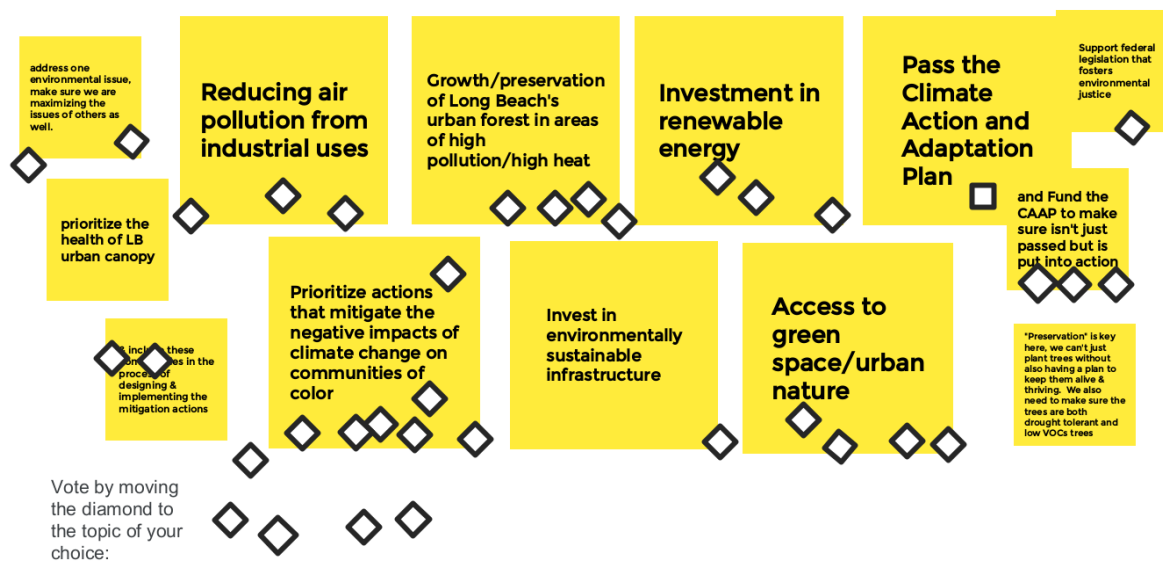
Session: Equity

Facilitators:

Shreya Sharan, Equity Policy & Programs Specialist, Office of Equity

Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Planner IV & Budget Specialist, Long Beach Planning Bureau

Participants in the Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative (2020) identified the following environmental justice priorities. What would you add to this list? Which priority would you like to see the City work on first?



Q1: What environmental justice initiatives would you like the City to prioritize?

Session 1

- ★ Vulnerability issues face everyone in the neighborhood, not always specific races/groups
- ★ Reducing air pollution
 - This goes hand in hand with other climate vulnerabilities like extreme heat affecting public health
 - Most diesel particulate impacting health is from the Port, trucks, and trains
- ★ Urban forest
 - Challenge to invest in expanding urban forest while preserving existing trees. Trees planted should be drought tolerant and low VOC.
 - Prioritize the health of the urban canopy and implement a plan to keep trees alive and thriving.
 - Need to update the urban forest management plan with equity in mind

- Important to include people in the process - people see trees as a liability especially when they are not trimmed often enough - trees are also seen as a crime issue, police want clear lines of sight

Session 2

- ★ Mitigate negative climate impacts on communities of color
 - Many of the issues above are interrelated
 - COVID-19 impacts correlate with EJ impacts
 - Include disadvantaged communities in the process of designing and implementing mitigation actions
- ★ City support for federal legislation of Carbon Tax
 - Create financial incentives for companies to not pollute residents
 - Use dividends from Carbon Tax to use as reparations to disadvantaged communities
- ★ Invest into renewable energy
 - Create jobs in the process
- ★ Fund the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

How can the City support/partner with community-based organizations working in the climate justice space?



Q2: How can the City support/partner with community-based organizations working in the climate justice space?

Session 1

★ Funding

- Create funding and grant opportunities for community organizations to partner and create new community-led programs and initiatives. Prioritize equitable procurement.
- Need to fully understand where communities are at and what resources are needed - not just coming up with funding but right sizing the funding so projects can be completed.
- Perfect opportunity for measure US - some funding should go directly to CBOs

★ Training

- It would be helpful if local government could provide training to grassroots nonprofits just getting started - how to interact with local government, where they can be heard, gaining respect from city offices.
 - Include training as part of a grant structure.
- Citizen lobbyist training to effectively advocate for themselves.
 - Leverage the expertise of city staff that are engaged in the work to lift the burden of lobbying council from community members.

★ Engagement with communities

- Difficult to engage some communities, people have multiple jobs, families - how to better engage is the first step. Address the barriers these communities face with accessing engagement.
- Council district in 8 and 9 have been doing a great job engaging with community.
- Can't expect people to come to the City, the City must come to people where they are
 - Typically we (community org) go through churches because many people spend their time there
- Actively give space to community organizations to absorb info, critique it, and have sense of community control over projects.
 - Priorities of one neighborhood are not the same as impacted neighborhoods - design priorities around what community concerns are.
- Issue of information sources - not everyone is basing their opinions on the same information. Difficult to create understanding of the issues.
- ★ Local Jobs
 - Hire local - train local community members to build the infrastructure needed so they have pride of ownership and are there to fix it if needed.
 - Provide green job training and education.
 - Transition higher polluting jobs to lower polluting jobs.

Session 2

- ★ Support national legislation on Carbon Tax
- ★ Training/public dialogues for community members about environmental justice and environmental racism
- ★ Design solutions with community based on what the communities are asking for; recognizing that lived experience is expertise
- ★ More inter-neighborhood interaction and understanding
 - Bring together both disadvantaged and privileged neighborhood associations - reach across the aisle
 - Have these meetings and interactions near 710 and diesel alley to expose privileged communities to environmental injustices
 - Town Halls to promote understanding
 - Block parties and central places to promote community through art, music, etc

What is the most impactful action the City can take to achieve environmental justice?



Q3: What is the most impactful action the City can take to achieve environmental justice?

Session 1

- ★ Follow and implement existing plans
 - Funding is needed for implementation.
 - Funding should be invested in the communities for implementation.
- ★ Update Land Use regulations to align with environmental justice priorities

Session 2

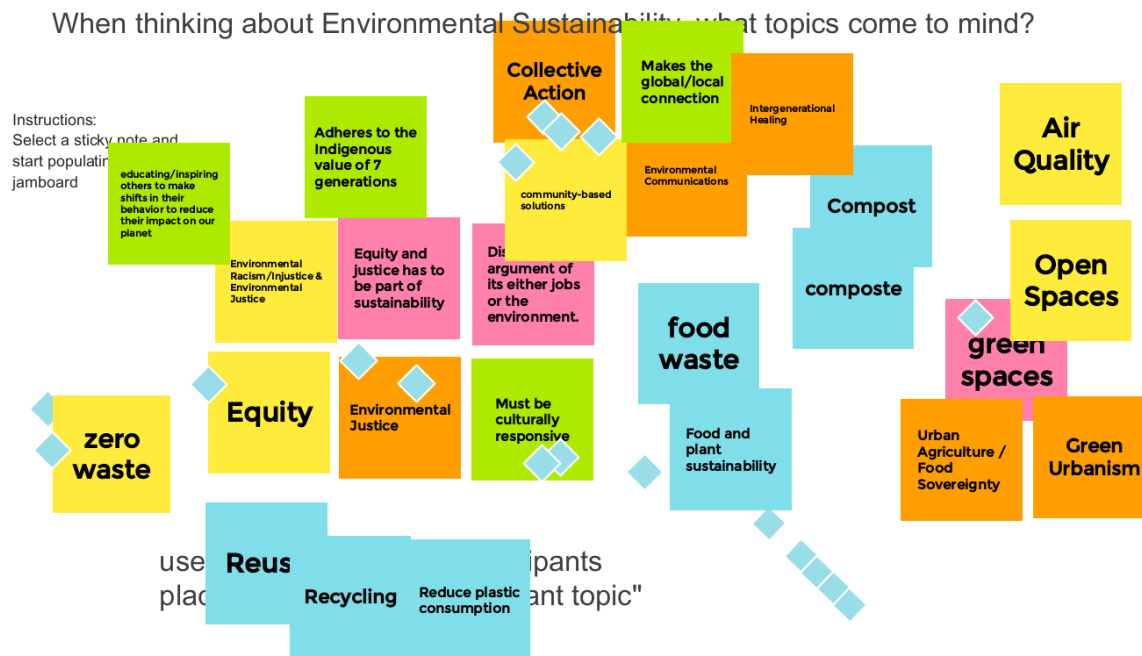
- ★ Listen to community members and address harms that have been perpetuated in the city (i.e. redlining)
- ★ Aggressively improve air quality of impacted regions near 710
- ★ Include the Port of Long Beach more in City climate initiatives
 - Acknowledge the role the Port and City have in contributing to global climate change
 - Decarbonize port transportation
- ★ Taxes on “dirty” resources
 - City tax on imported petroleum, similar to federal carbon tax
- ★ Stop drilling, move to renewable energy

Session: Environmental Education

Facilitators:

Raelene Child, Youth Program Director, Leadership Long Beach

Jill Unze, Volunteer, Leadership Long Beach



Q1: When thinking about environmental education, what topics come to mind?

★ Equity

- The foundation for environmental solutions
- Communities may have solutions but don't have ability to communicate those/don't have a seat at the table
- Perspective and a seat at the table is important for others to understand environmental issues and solutions

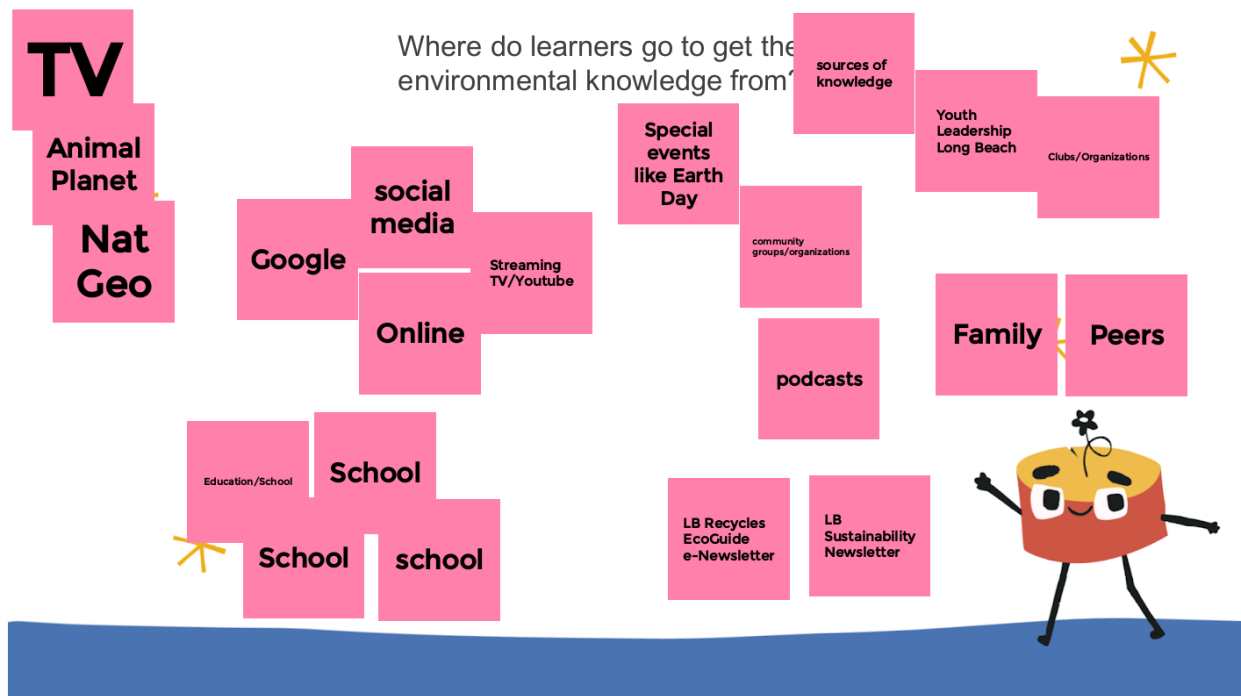
★ Cultural and generational

- Education should be made accessible and tailored to different cultures
- Education must be culturally responsive

★ Collective action

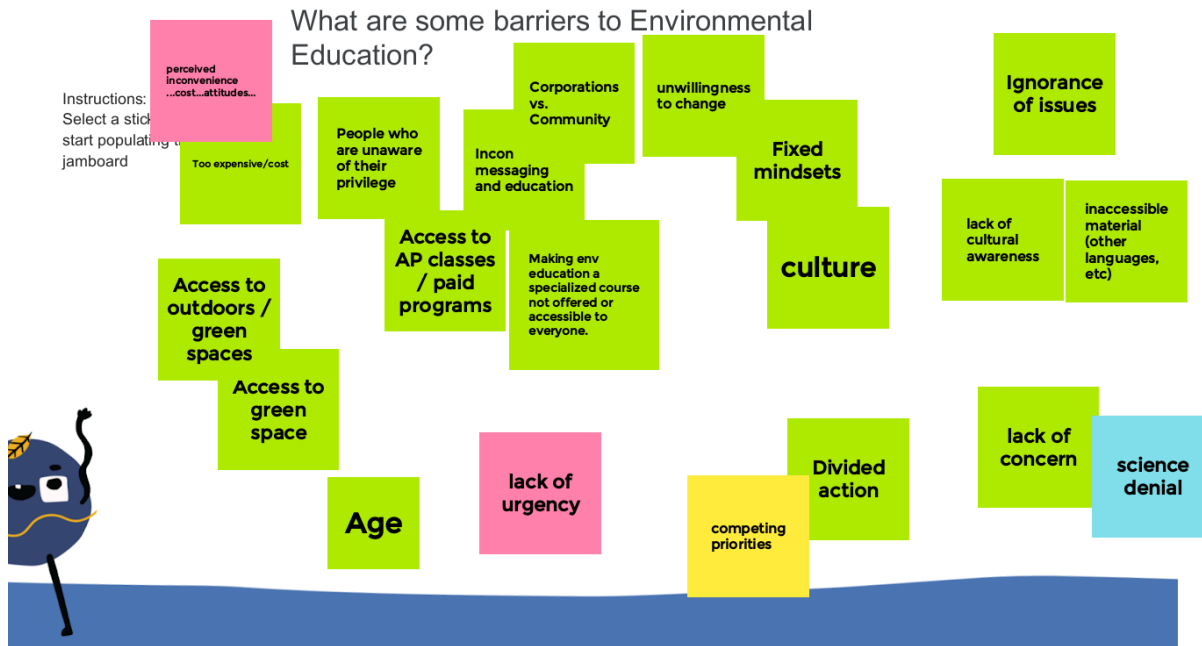
- Not just decisions at city council, community input important, cultural responses to cocreate
- Need to hear community's concerns but also inform them
- A lot of sustainability education is focused on individuals' actions; misses the importance of the impact of collective action

- ★ Waste reduction: composting; zero waste efforts; reduce, reuse, recycle; avoiding single-use plastics
- ★ Education in nature: accessing and activating open spaces



Q2: Where do learners go to get their environmental knowledge from?

- ★ Digital: social media, Google, websites, streaming YouTube and other channels, podcasts
 - Heavy reliance on traditional and social media presents concerns with older generations and technology barriers
- ★ School
 - K-8 will have some enviro edu in curriculum
 - People's science identity is established prior to high school. Those who don't feel that they're good at science in K-8 won't pursue science in college and their careers
- ★ Other sources of knowledge:
 - LB Recycles EcoGuide and e-newsletter, LB Sustainability newsletter, Youth Leadership Long Beach, other clubs and organizations
- ★ Behavior change is difficult as adults. More work should be done to draw children in to influence their behavior before they become resistant to change



Q3: What are some barriers to Environmental Education?

- ★ Lack of cultural awareness
 - Sustainability needs to be culturally inclusive
- ★ Age/generational barriers are different in different cultures
- ★ Resistance to change: Fixed mindsets, unwillingness to change, lack of concern, science denial
- ★ Ignorance of privilege
- ★ Competing priorities and divided action
- ★ Accessibility
 - Lack of access to green space, outdoors
 - AP classes and paid programs present accessibility barrier
 - Existing materials and resources may be inaccessible to various cultures due to language barriers
- ★ Inconsistency of messaging and education
- ★ Takeaway: Meeting people where they're at and meeting their needs will make them more receptive to messaging

Recap/summary:

- Common topics: RRR, equity, open space, collective action
- Open spaces are an educational opportunity
- Sources for environmental knowledge are geared toward younger audiences
- Lack of urgency or lack of concern and competing priorities are barriers in the educational realm
 - Teachers are required to include in curriculum, but usually only in AP classes
- Resistance to change is a big barrier

Session: Air Pollution

Facilitators:

Dr. Jennifer Lentz, Program Manager, Coalition for Clean Air

Chris Chavez, Deputy Policy Director, Coalition for Clean Air

1) What comes to mind when you hear the term "Air Pollution"?
(vote & add your own post-it examples)

Vehicle Emissions

Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (incinerator)

Ships, Trucks, Airplanes and Fossil fueled power plants

PORTS

Emissions from E-Cigarettes, & Vaping. Has a lot of metals in the vapors.

Criteria pollutants, NOx, SOx, PM 2.5, PM 10

Refinery pollution; freeway pollution; pollution from small facilities like auto body shops, dismantlers, etc.

Diesel Emissions

Microplastics in the air, water, and snowflakes

Difficulty Breathing

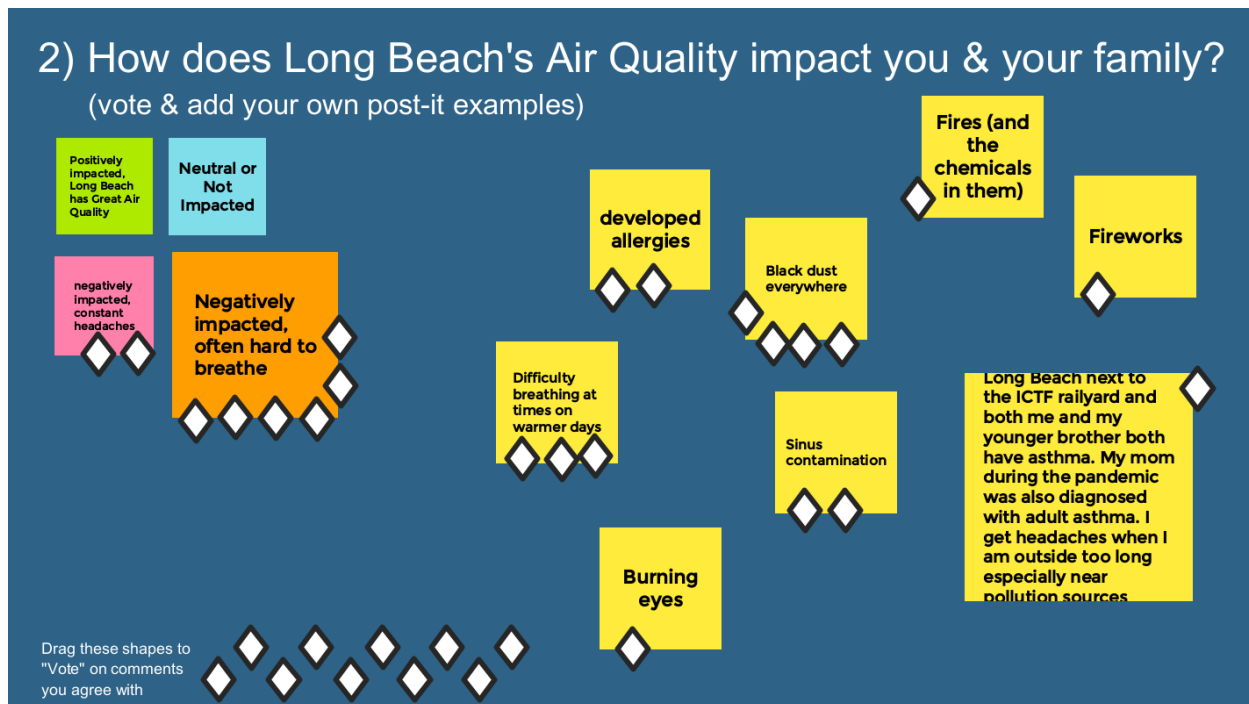
Black dust

Drag these shapes to "Vote" on comments you agree with

Q1: What comes to mind when you hear the term "Air Pollution"?

- ★ Emissions from vehicles, ports, ships, power plants, etc.
 - People living near transportation corridors, power plants and refineries, freeways are more heavily impacted and aware of these sources
- ★ Second hand smoke from cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping
 - Impacts from e-cigarettes and vaping is becoming a new concern regarding air quality with the growing popularity of these alternatives to cigarette smoking
 - People feel impacts of second hand smoke from neighbors and when out in public
 - A reference to a lawsuit in which a resident is seeking legal council to determine if they have any legal rights regarding the second hand smoke from their neighbor's porch
- ★ Black dust
 - Many participants feel they are unable to keep up with household cleaning as thick, black dust is a constant daily battle
 - Participants are aware of and concerned that this dust is then uplifted and breathed in while they are cleaning

- The dust is a constant visual reminder of what's in the air they breathe everyday, even inside their own homes
- ★ Microplastics
 - Concern that microplastics are being found in the air, rain and snow, not just in the water we drink and food we eat
- ★ Difficulty breathing
 - Participants discussed noticing difficulty breathing when driving on freeways at certain times of the day
 - Those living near the port, freeways and refineries have noticed increased asthma and difficulty breathing
- ★ Awareness of air pollution sources exists, what lacks are the solutions



Q2: How does Long Beach's air quality impact you and your family?

- ★ When given the choices 1) Positively impacted, Long Beach has great air quality, 2) Neutral or not impacted, 3) negatively impacted, constant headaches, and 4) negatively impacted, often hard to breathe, zero votes were cast for positively or neutrally impacted; some votes were cast for negatively impacted with headaches; and the majority of votes were cast for negatively impacted and often hard to breathe
- ★ Unanimous feeling that our air quality is poor
- ★ Difficulty breathing
 - Participants noted breathing difficulties are increased on warmer days, associated with burning eyes
 - Participants discussed irritated throats and increased nasal congestion, including gray or black contaminated mucus
- ★ Allergies
 - Participants discussed the development of allergies after moving to or living in certain areas for long periods of time
 - Diagnoses of adult asthma in many participants and their family members
- ★ Fires and fireworks
 - Many expressed increase sensitivity to air quality after fires and around July when fireworks are active across the city

3) Based on what the City has control over with regard to Air Quality, what do you think the City should prioritize & why?

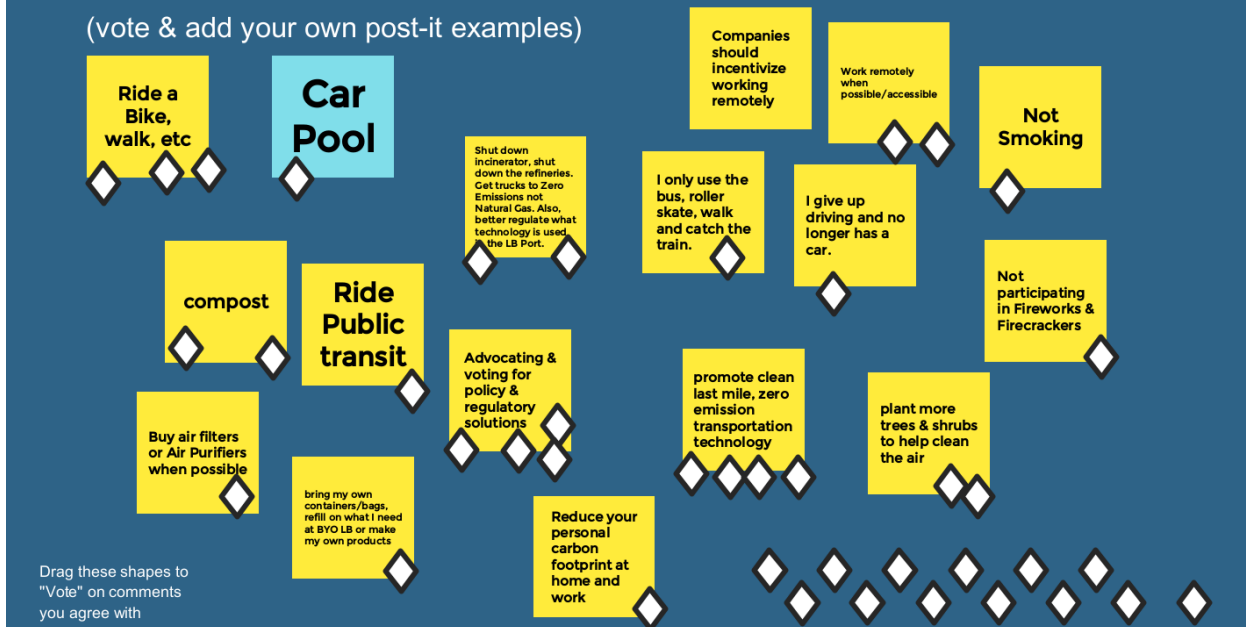


Q3: Based on what the City has control over with regard to air quality, what do you think the City should prioritize and why?

- ★ City needs to take action: There is perception that the City talks about air quality but does not take enough action to address it adequately
- ★ Prioritize zero waste: Reduce emissions from hauling waste, converting waste to energy, and emissions from landfills
- ★ Public and active transportation should be supported and prioritized over freeway expansions
 - Public transit safety needs to be improved: Public transit may reduce emissions from single drivers, but public transit can also be a source of pollution: smoking at bus/metro stops, urinating/defecating, lack of enforcement and low perception of safety
- ★ The City does not currently meet federal air quality standards. At the bare minimum the City should be meeting federal air quality standards
- ★ Grants and subsidies for new technology involving emissions reductions
- ★ Clean energy over oil production
 - The City should cease oil production
 - Microgrids and clean energy supplies should be promoted
 - The grid should be electrified; support for CCA
- ★ Incentives and rebates for land/homeowners
 - Landowners and landlords should be incentivized to electrify their units and buildings, and upgrade weatherization factors such as new doors and windows
 - Incentives for homeowners to electrify and upgrade weatherization factors
 - Rebates for air purifiers

4) What actions can you do to improve our Air Quality?

(vote & add your own post-it examples)



Q4: What actions can you take to improve our air quality?

- ★ Solutions range from personal behavior change and desire to advocate for policy changes within the City
- ★ Direct personal actions:
 - Reduce transportation emissions: Riding a bike, walking, carpooling, taking public transit
 - Composting to reduce waste emissions
 - Purchasing air purifiers
 - Not participating in festivities with fireworks and firecrackers
 - Planting trees and shrubs to capture carbon
- ★ Advocacy and policy:
 - Voting on public policy and regulatory solutions
 - Promote clean last mile and zero emissions technology
 - Advocate for companies to continue to encourage remote work options, including providing incentives for employees to telecommute
- ★ Participants also expressed a desire to see more policy and regulations to advocate for, support and vote on

Session: Energy

Facilitators:

Clay Sandige, Senior Project Manager, P2S Inc.

Stella Ursua, Clean Mobility & Partnerships Manager, GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles

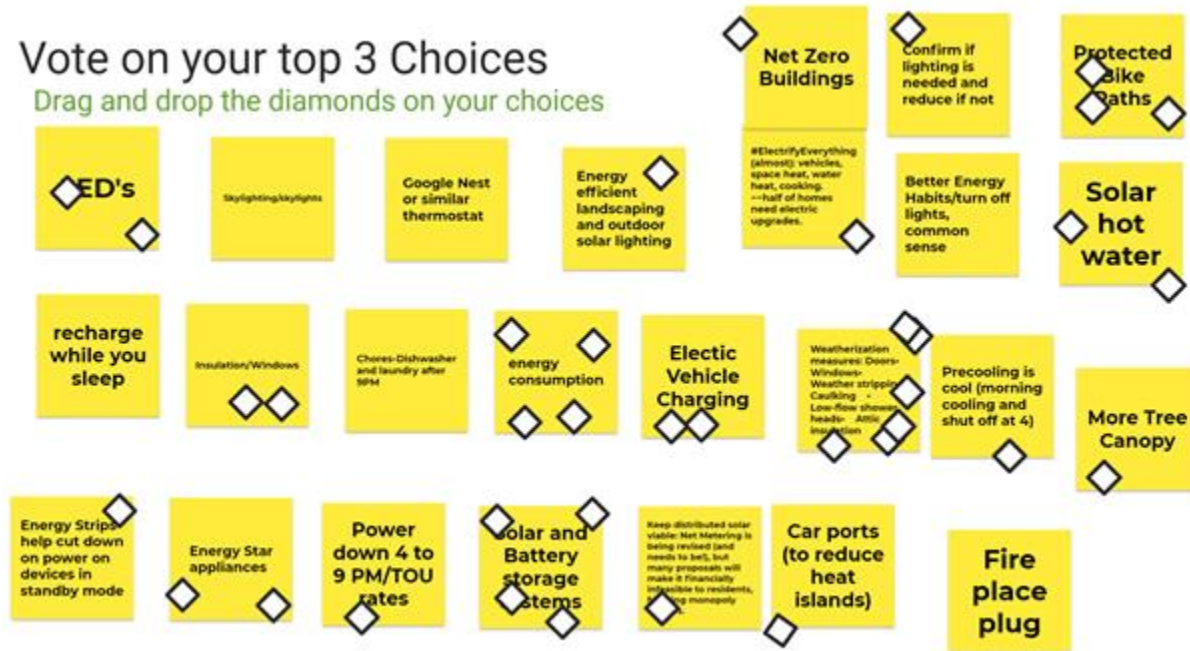


Q1: When you think about sustainable energy in Long Beach, what are your priorities? What are your values?

- ★ Transitioning Long Beach energy grid to renewable sources of electricity
 - Electrify everything
 - Produce our energy locally
 - Invest in renewables
 - Transition Energy Resources to renewable energy sources
 - Transition our School District away from fossil fuels
 - Support net metering
- ★ Transportation
 - Incentivizing public transportation
 - High speed rail
 - Transition away from gas-powered cars
- ★ Traffic Reduction (as it relates to Port and refinery activity)
- ★ Look more into Community Choice Aggregation
- ★ Energy efficiency and reducing energy demand
- ★ Incorporate equity as part of our energy choices

Vote on your top 3 Choices

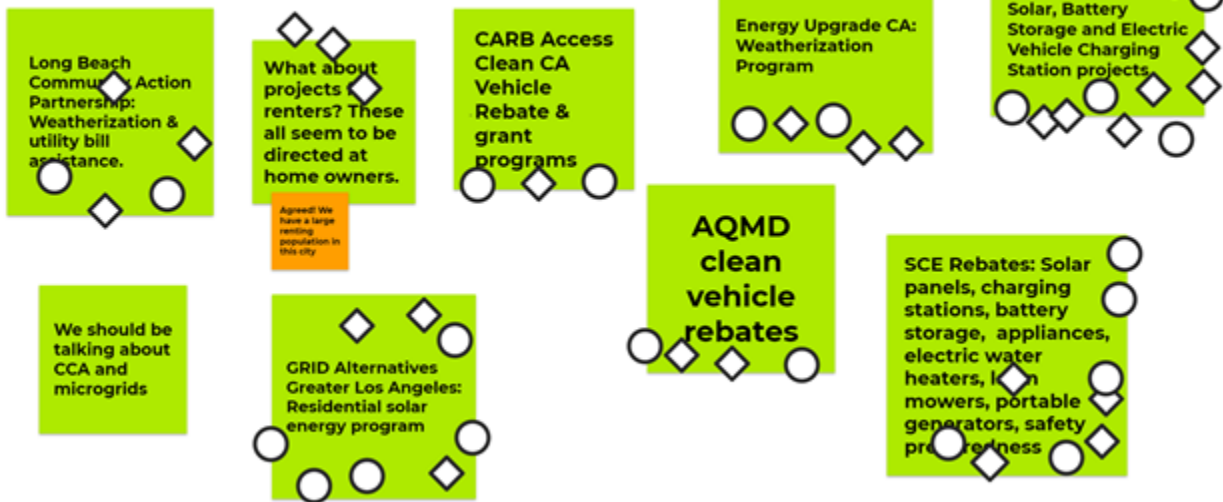
Drag and drop the diamonds on your choices



Q2: What are your top 3 choices of energy conservation measures?

- ★ Participants were most interested in weatherization measures and solar/battery storage systems
- ★ Solar
 - When the City adds solar, using brownfield already disturbed sites
 - Solar carports
 - Time of Use as an incentive to get solar
- ★ Buildings
 - Net zero buildings
 - LEDs
 - Electrification
 - Old roofs aren't able to handle the weight of solar
- ★ Energy efficiency and renewable energy should go beyond buildings and should be consider at a wider systems view
 - City lights should be separate from the grid, be self sufficient, and have auto controls
- ★ Need to address extreme heat because that increases energy use
 - Painting streets white
 - Increasing tree canopy
- ★ Nexus between water and energy
 - Water efficient landscaping is energy efficiency landscaping

Which programs do you already know about? ○
Which are most important to you? ◇



Q3: What energy programs are you already aware of? Which are the most important to you?

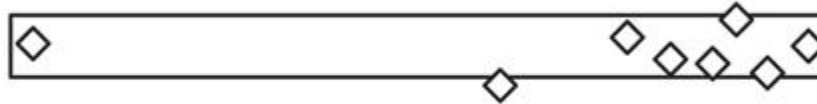
- ★ Participants were most familiar with rebates and incentives from Southern California Edison and GRID Alternatives solar programs.
- ★ All of these programs need to be integrated so that we can incorporate all these strategies at once
 - Energy efficiency, renewable energy, battery storage, EV charging
- ★ More programs for renters are needed
 - Get multi-unit building owners on board
 - Partner with community organizations to both communicate with and educate renters
- ★ Technology needs to become more accessible and affordable

Energy Choices
Are you familiar with CCA programs?

Poly CSC met
with Mr.
Garner to
discuss it :)

We should
also support
Microgrids

Not
Familiar



Very
Familiar

**Southern
California
Edison**

**Community
Choice
Aggregation
(CCA)**

Question 4: Are you familiar with Community Choice Aggregation?

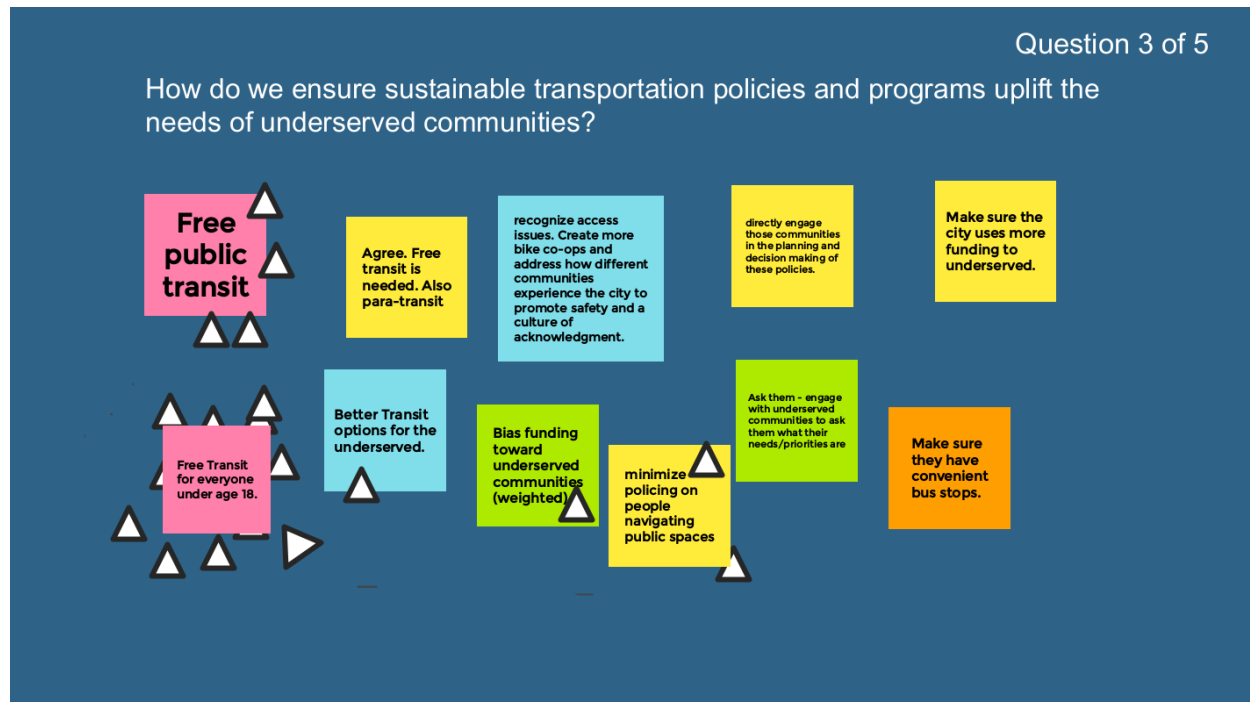
- ★ Most participants were familiar with community choice aggregation programs
- ★ Youth at Poly High School have been seeking more information about Community Choice Aggregation
- ★ The City of Long Beach, Community Organizations, LBUSD, LBCC, CSULB need to get together and work together on local energy issues as a community.
 - Facilitating the transition from gas to electric
 - Microgrid development

Session: Active Transportation

Facilitators:

Fern Nueno, Mobility Programs Officer, Public Works, Transportation Mobility Bureau

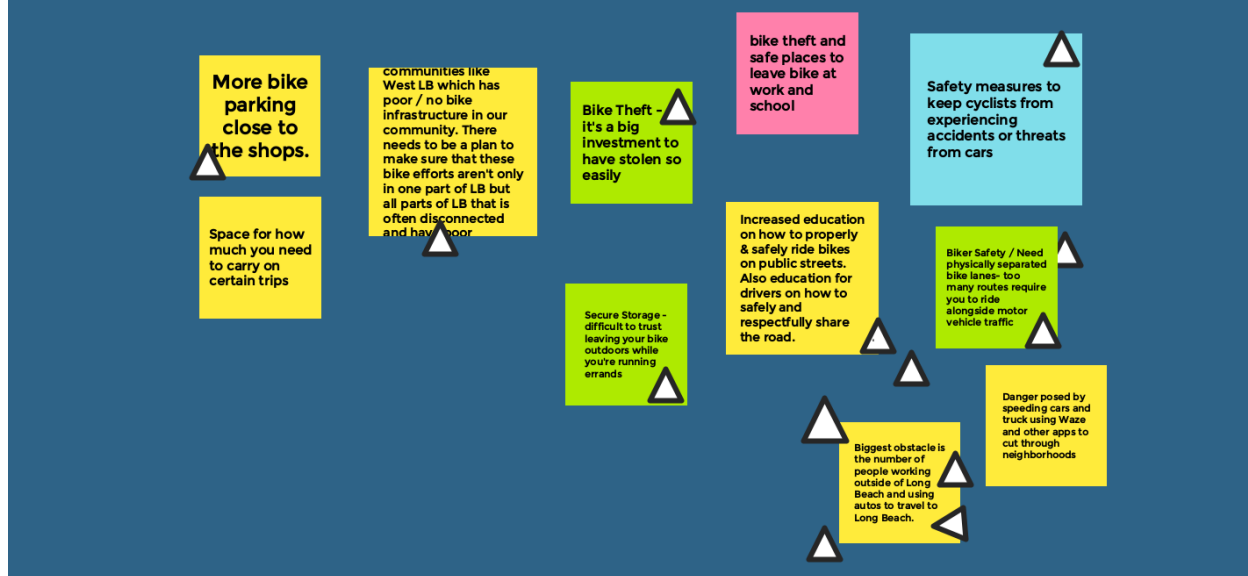
Rachel Junken, Transportation Planner, Public Works, Transportation Mobility Bureau



Q1: How do we ensure sustainable transportation policies and programs uplift the needs of underserved communities?

- ★ Free transit for everyone under age 18
- ★ Free public transit, also para-transit
- ★ Better transit options for the underserved
- ★ Recognize access issues. Create more bike co-ops and address how different communities experience the city to promote safety and a culture of acknowledgement
- ★ Bias funding toward underserved communities (weighted)
- ★ Minimize policing on people navigating public spaces
- ★ Directly engage those communities in the planning and decision making of these policies
- ★ Ask them - engage with underserved communities to ask them what their needs/priorities are
- ★ Make sure the city uses more funding to underserved
- ★ Make sure they have convenient bus stops

Question 1 of 5
The 2017 Bicycle Master Plan establishes a goal of 30% of all trips in Long Beach to be taken by bike. What is the biggest hurdle to achieving this goal?



Q2: The 2017 Bicycle Master Plan establishes a goal of 30% of all trips in Long Beach to be taken by bike. What is the biggest hurdle to achieving this goal?

- ★ Biggest obstacle is the number of people working outside of Long Beach and using autos to travel to Long Beach - 4 votes
- ★ Bike Safety - Need physically separated bike lanes - too many routes require you to ride alongside motor vehicle traffic - 2 votes
- ★ Increased education on how to properly and safely ride bikes on public streets. Also education for drivers on how to safely and respectfully share the road - 2 votes
- ★ More bike parking close to shops
- ★ Space for how much you need to carry on certain trips
- ★ Communities like West LB which has poor or no bike infrastructure. There needs to be a plan to make sure that these bike efforts aren't only in one part of LB but all parts of LB
- ★ Bike Theft - it's a big investment to have stolen so easily, safe place for bikes at work and school
- ★ Safety measures to keep cyclists from experiencing collisions or threats from cars
- ★ Danger posed by speeding cars and trucks using Waze and other apps to cut through neighborhoods
- ★ Secure Storage - difficult to trust leaving your bike outdoors while you're running errands

Commuting trips could be reduced if more people were able to both live and work in Long Beach. What can we do to increase housing options and jobs in Long Beach?



Q3: Commuting trips could be reduced if more people were able to both live and work in Long Beach. What can we do to increase housing options and jobs in Long Beach?

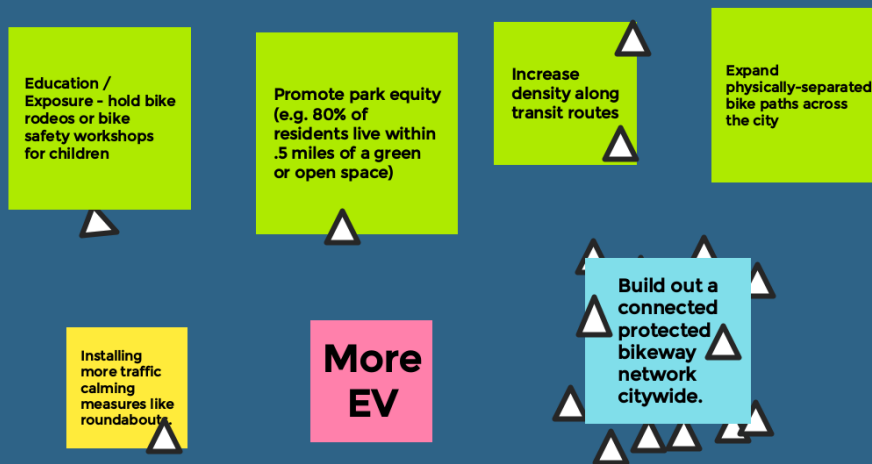
- ★ Increase housing density
- ★ Increase density along public transit routes
- ★ Affordable housing and rent control
- ★ Promote specialized industries like the emerging rocket/small satellite industry
- ★ Provide earmarked economic development grants for micromobility-related retailers and repair
- ★ Work with local businesses to reach out to employees to promote living in Long Beach
- ★ Create more jobs and more affordable housing in Long Beach
- ★ Publicly owned housing that won't sunset like some affordable housing set-asides
- ★ Promote housing, density, affordable housing and workforce development programs with incentives to operate businesses in LB (like the LB Accelerator)



Q4: What will you do to make Long Beach streets safer?

- ★ Obey law when driving, biking or walking
- ★ Bike infrastructure, buffer lanes, more crosswalks (probably with street lights) in neighborhoods that don't have street lights for many blocks. Many people jay walk because to get to actual protected light is very far
- ★ Be present and aware of cyclists, pedestrians and other people on the street. Drivers can easily become disconnected from their environment
- ★ Wear helmet as much as possible
- ★ Reduce cars by making gas more expensive
- ★ No parking of tall vehicle near corners
- ★ Ensure that people riding bikes will be safe
- ★ Use headlight on bike or scooter at night
- ★ Encourage light colored clothing after dark
- ★ Education programs for car drivers to slow down
- ★ Reduce vehicular speeds city-wide through legislative efforts
- ★ Obey the speed limit when driving and obey the rules of the road when riding or walking

What active transportation goals should be incorporated into the Sustainability Strategic Plan?



Q5: What active transportation goals should be incorporated into the Sustainability Strategic Plan?

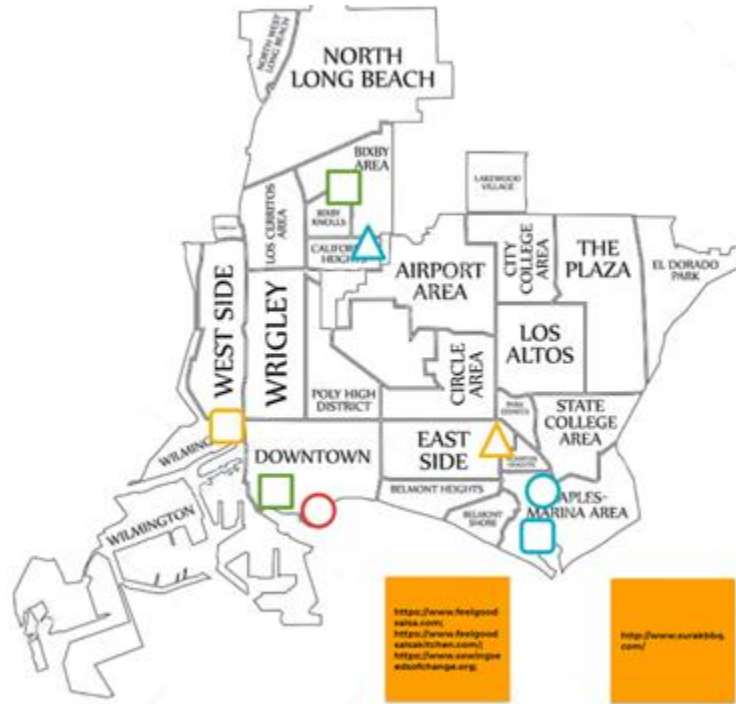
- ★ Build out a connected protected bikeway network citywide - 12 votes
- ★ Education/exposure - hold bike rodeos or bike safety workshops for children
- ★ Installing more traffic calming measures like roundabouts
- ★ Promote park equity (80% of residents live within ½ mile of a green or open space)
- ★ Increase density along transit routes
- ★ Expand physically-separated bike paths across the city
- ★ More Electric Vehicles

Session: Climate Resilience

Facilitators:

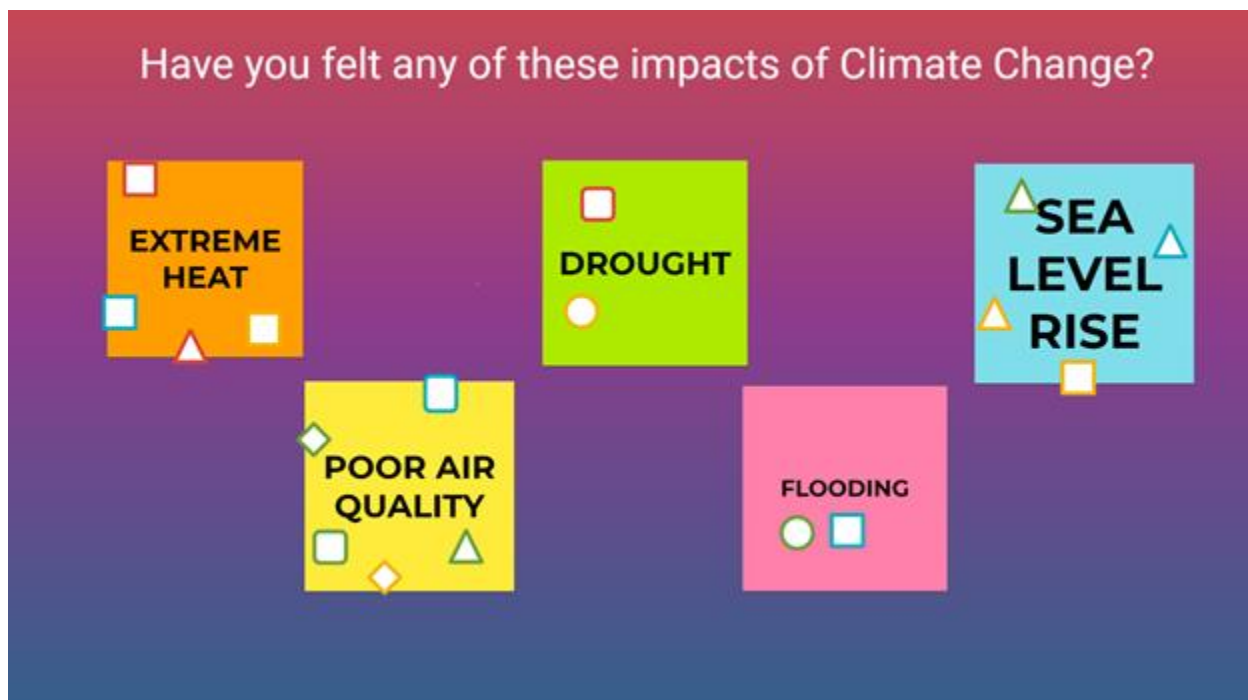
Jennifer Ly, Planner, City of Long Beach

Jocelyn Rodriguez, Fellow, California Climate Action Corps



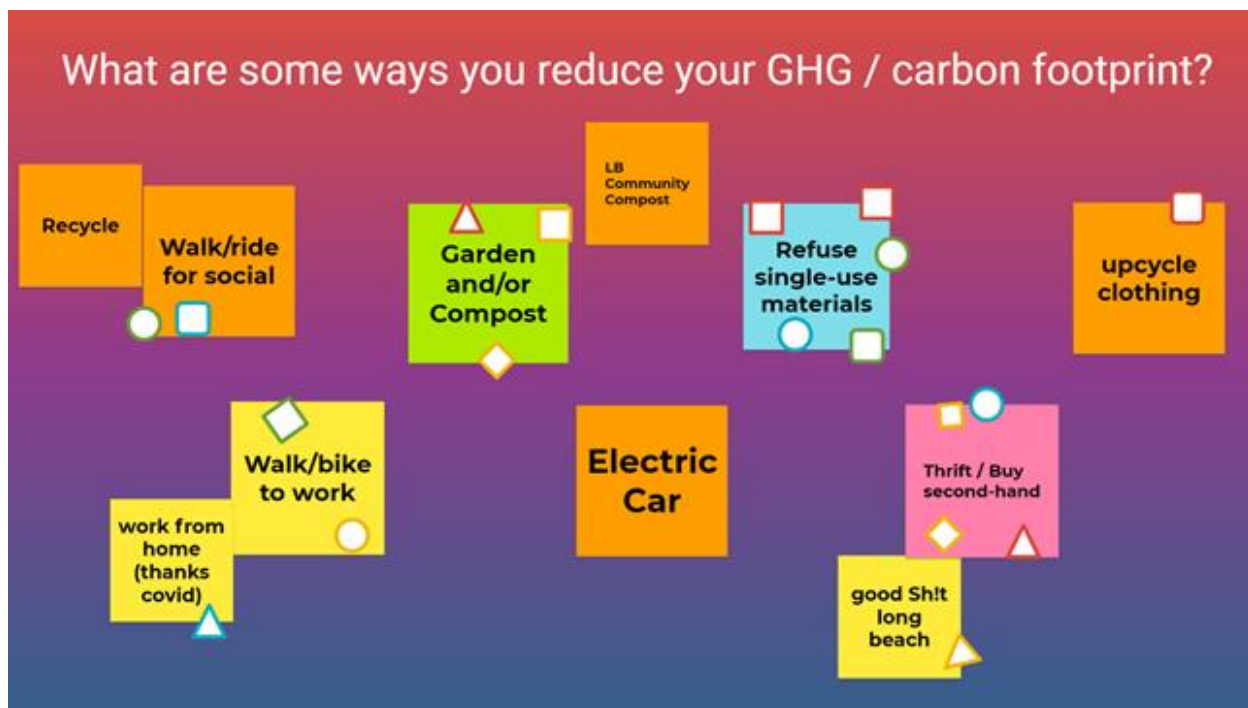
Q1: Where do you live or work in Long Beach?

- ★ Participants from:
 - Downtown
 - Westside
 - Bixby Knolls
 - California Heights
 - East Side
 - Naples-Marina Area
- ★ Some participants also own businesses in Long Beach
- ★ Most participants have been following the development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan



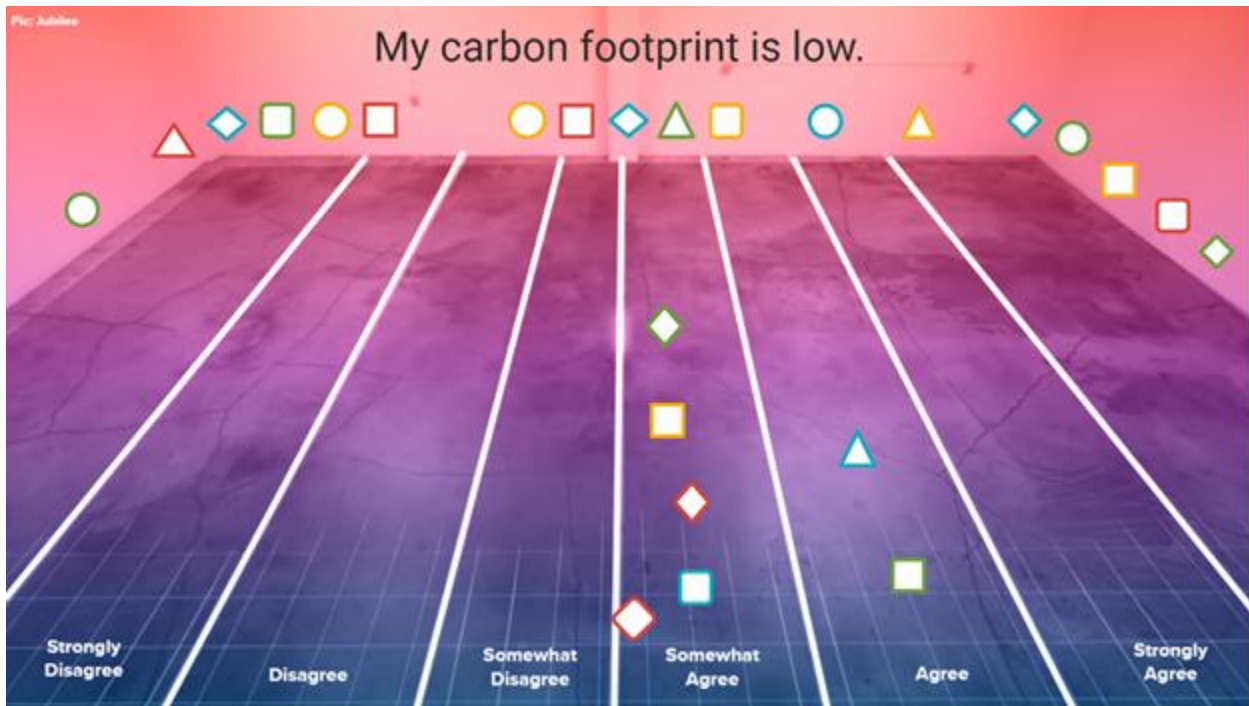
Q2: What impacts of climate change have you already felt?

- ★ Extreme heat, poor air quality, and sea level rise are the impacts of climate change felt most commonly among participants
- ★ Drought and flooding that is not related to sea level rise have also been felt by some participants
- ★ Anecdotes from participants
 - Extreme Heat: I live in CalHeights, we have single-pane wood windows, a huge challenge living in a 100 year old home with no AC. The more years I live here, the hotter it gets.
 - Poor Air Quality: I live downtown and it is a constant battle to clean my porch and furniture - its daily struggle to keep clean and I know that all that I'm cleaning up is the same material that is going into my lungs. When I see the ships out at the port increasing, I think of the increased air pollution.
 - Drought: I've lived here in Long Beach for 20 years and I've noticed the rainy seasons have been getting further and further apart and it has just been getting drier and drier.
 - Flooding/Sea Level Rise: I live in Belmont Shore and when I walk through the Peninsula I have been noticing more and more flooding throughout the year.



Q3: What are some ways you reduce your personal greenhouse gas emissions or carbon footprint?

- ★ Participants reduce their personal carbon footprint in several ways:
 - Waste strategies: Recycling, composting, upcycling, second hand purchasing, and not using single-use materials.
 - Transportation strategies: Electric vehicles, active transportation, and telecommuting
- ★ For women, neighborhoods sometimes don't feel safe for walking and biking, especially at night.
- ★ Streets are very narrow in some places of Long Beach and when the cars are moving fast, it doesn't feel safe.
- ★ People need to learn more about what can actually be recycled and stop 'wishcycling'
- ★ Composting is fun as a community activity
 - Long Beach Community Compost is a location that you can drop off organic waste and then be able to pick up compost for use.
- ★ Carpooling
- ★ Being a green business



Q4: From strongly agree to strongly disagree, how do you respond to the statement “My carbon footprint is low”?

- ★ Most participants somewhat agree with the statement “My carbon footprint is low.”
- ★ Practicing a sustainable lifestyle makes my personal carbon footprint low:
 - Driving a a fuel cell
 - Composting
 - Gardening
 - Plant based- diet,
 - Don’t buy clothes or items first hand
- ★ Using a personal carbon footprint calculator can be eye-opening, there are many tradeoffs when making sustainable choices that you may not realize



Q5: From strongly agree to strongly disagree, how do you respond to the statement “I know how to participate in City processes to support climate action and climate resilience”?

- ★ All participants somewhat disagree with the statement “I know how to participate in City processes to support climate action and climate resilience”
- ★ Anecdotes from participants:
 - “My professional self feels like I know how to interact with the City. In my personal life, I don’t feel like I know how to participate in city processes.”
 - “I don’t know how to give the city more feedback. I participate in City Commission meetings, but that doesn’t feel very involved. This is the first event where I feel like I am actually able to give feedback. I want more opportunities to participate.”



Q5: From strong disagree to strongly agree, I participate in an environmental organization

- ★ Most participants strongly agree with the statement of “I participate in an environmental organization.”
- ★ Community Emergency Rescue Team (CERT) can be considered a climate organization because they focus on disaster preparedness:
 - In the past, youth from CERT brought medications and ice to seniors that couldn’t access elevators in a power outage